



FREIRE SCHOOLS FACT SHEET

OUR IMPACT

Freire Schools has more than 20 years of success with raising student achievement and preparing historically underserved students for college. We believe all students can achieve and meet students where they are, providing a rigorous academic program and comprehensive supports that enable them to thrive. Every day, Freire Schools is making a lasting impact on Philadelphia's and Wilmington's youth.

- Freire Schools began in 1999 with just 100 students at Freire High School. Today, we serve 2,000 students across our four campuses in two cities.
- Since its founding, Freire Schools has brought life-changing learning opportunities to over 7,000 students in grades 5 to 12.
- 2019-20 was the second year that Freire Schools had graduating classes at all three of our high schools, with 274 students graduating network-wide.

PREPARED FOR COLLEGE

- Across the network, at least 85% of our Class of 2020 applied to and at least 81.9% were accepted to college. Students were accepted to 165 colleges and universities. This was a drop from our 93% acceptance rate the previous year, but COVID-19 impacted both student college plans and the ease with which they could self-report acceptance data. Our college counselors are keeping kids on track for college with virtual college tours, application support, and instant decision days.
- Freire Schools is successful in connecting students to the financial resources they need to be able to persist at the college of their choice. The Class of 2020 received over \$13.8 million in college scholarships and financial aid, an average of more than \$50,474 per graduate.
- On average, 73% of Freire Schools graduates seamlessly enroll in college the fall after high school graduation, compared to the national average of 69%. Other students have enlisted in the armed services or entered the workforce directly.
- Our students succeed upon enrollment in college. On average, 83% of college-enrolled Freire High School graduates persist to their second year of college – compared to the national average of just 76%.
- Our college graduation rate far exceeds the national average: Freire High School's college completion rate within six years after high school graduation averages 37% over the past three years, compared to a national average of just 27% for low-income students from high minority, public non-charter schools.
- On average, 88% of Freire High School students graduate high school in four years – at least ten percentage points higher than the School District of Philadelphia's four-year cohort graduation rate.
- In 2018-19 (the last year for which there are test results due to COVID-19), Freire Middle School ranked #4 out of all public Philadelphia middle schools on the School District of Philadelphia's annual school progress report. For the third consecutive year, Freire Middle School received a Progress score of 100%.
- The longer students attend Freire Wilmington, the better they perform. In 2018-19, juniors who enrolled at Freire Wilmington for at least three years were significantly more likely to score proficient on reading and math assessments compared to juniors who attended for just one or two years (47% proficient vs

20% in ELA and 22% proficient vs 12% in Math). Due to COVID-19, we do not have complete assessment data for 2019-20.

- TECH Freire continues to show incremental growth, exceeding the School District of Philadelphia average for Literature proficiency in 2018-19 (the last year for which we have data due to COVID-19) and beating the statewide average for growth in Biology and Literature.

A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

- All four Freire Schools campuses have received competitive 21st Century Community Learning Center grants and our Philadelphia campuses receive generous EITC support, which allow our schools to operate high-interest and academically enriching after-school and summer programs during the hours when youth are most vulnerable.
 - In 2018, students had the chance to participate in 52,614 hours of extended-day programs and 88 after-school programs.
 - When COVID-19 required us to pivot virtual learning, we quickly moved our after-school and summer programs online. In 2020-21, we have 58 virtual clubs and academic centers helping kids create, connect, and have fun.
- All campuses provide Emotional Supports programs that address social and emotional barriers to learning, by providing individual and family therapy at no cost to families.
 - During in-person instruction prior to COVID-19, as many as 25% of students network-wide were accessing these critical mental health services.
 - In spring 2020, we prioritized restoring these services online. As of February 2021, nearly 10% of our students network-wide are participating in virtual individual therapy.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Freire Middle School received Great Philly Schools' 2020 High Growth Rating for demonstrating "impressive academic growth" over a three-year period in math and reading.
- In 2018, Freire schools network founder Kelly Davenport was honored by *City and State's* PA Above & Beyond Awards.
- Freire High School received *U.S. News & World Report's* Best High Schools Bronze Medal in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017.
- TECH Freire was one of only five schools, out of 39 total applications, approved to open a new Philadelphia charter school in 2016.
- Freire Charter School was designated a Pennsylvania Distinguished Title 1 School in 2015.
- Freire Charter School was featured in *Philadelphia Magazine's* 2014 article, "Four Philadelphia Schools that Work."
- Freire Charter School was recognized by Auditor General Eugene DePasquale as "a charter school doing things right" following a clean performance audit in 2014.
- Freire Charter School received the U.S. Department of Education EPIC Silver Award for Student Achievement in 2011.
- In 2010, Freire Charter School became the first charter school in Pennsylvania to receive the National Title 1 Distinguished School award.